

February 9, 2009

Ms. Roberta Shulman  
Board of Trustees  
Montgomery College  
900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 355  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Chairwoman Shulman,

I am writing to express Mayor and Council's concerns about the impact of Montgomery College's smoke free campus policy on Rockville residents.

In September 2008, residents of Rockville's College Gardens and Plymouth Woods neighborhoods began communicating with Montgomery College and City staff about students congregating and smoking in the vicinity of Princeton Place. The neighbors of the College are feeling the effects of the College's smoke-free policy. The policy has moved the College's smoking problem from the Rockville campus to their neighborhood and has negatively impacted their quality of life.

The presence of large groups of students and some of the students' behavior is understandably troubling for the neighbors. The neighbors report that they are uncomfortable with individuals they don't know congregating in the neighborhood. They do not feel as safe as they used to when they are outside with their young children.

Neighbors find litter, including cigarette butts, on the grass, sidewalk and street. While we appreciate the College's initiative to place trash receptacles at the site, students do not always use them. The litter is unsightly and bad for the environment.

Rockville is proud to be the home of a Montgomery College campus, however we must insist that the College remain a good neighbor to our community. While the intentions of the smoke free campus are very positive, the negative impacts on quality of life in the neighborhood need to be addressed. Please work swiftly to mitigate the problems that are residents are experiencing daily. I look to hearing from you about the College's plan of action to address our concerns. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Susan Hoffmann  
City of Rockville